

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed January 23, 2003. In the Office Action, claims 23, 32, 40 and 47 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over East in view of Arnold (U.S. Patent No. 6,160,213). Claims 24-30, 33-39, 41-46 and 48-49 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Arnold. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections in their entirety. Claims 23-29, 32-34, 40, and 47 have been revised with pending claims 24, 27 and 28, in essence, constituting new claims because they are directed to entirely different subject matter as previous claims 24, 27 and 28. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of pending claims 23-30 and 32-49.

In a telephone conference with the Examiner on April 21, 2003, the undersigned attorney discussed the differences between the claimed invention and the combined teachings of East and Arnold. In particular, it is noted that neither East nor Arnold, alone or in combination, suggests first, second and third display portions as claimed, which are concurrently displayed to form a graphics user interface (GUI). These display portions enable a user to control selected tracks or input/output (I/O) channels associated with audio processing module(s).

In addition, distinct features of the GUI have been presented in the dependent claims. For instance, pending claim 24 now claims at least one selection button that, when selected, performs a predetermined function on two or more tracks (player and/or recorder for example) concurrently. An illustrative predetermined function (muting) is further set forth on pending claim 28. Also, pending claim 27 now claims that a display portion includes a scroll bar to allow access to a plurality of control boxes that may not even be visible on the screen display in the GUI, but are clearly part of the displayed image.

In light of the foregoing and the telephone conference of April 21, 2003, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the outstanding § 103(a) rejection and invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at the phone number listed below if further discussion would facilitate prosecution of the subject Application.

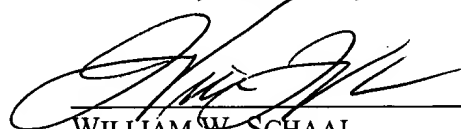
CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: April 23, 2003

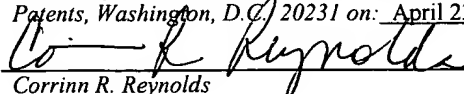


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on: April 23, 2003.

 4/23/03
Corinn R. Reynolds Date